

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION.

At 12 o'clock on Monday last the DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION commenced its session in the Universalist Church, Calvert street, Baltimore. The State Delegates met at various places at an earlier hour for consultation and organization.

The arrangements for the admission and convenience of the Delegates and the Reporters for the press were admirably made by the committee appointed for that purpose, for which they deserve great credit.

The Old Hunker delegates from New York were the first at the place of general meeting. Before 11 o'clock (the time of meeting being 12) they entered the church in a body, and took the seats assigned to them. Some forty minutes afterwards other delegates began to drop in separately, each being admitted by a ticket issued by the Committee of Arrangements, the delegates previously registering their names at the committee room.

The Virginia delegates appeared in large numbers—Accompanying county alone, as it was understood, having eleven representatives.

The Barnburners' delegation from New York, headed by C. C. CAMBRELENG, Esq., entered about fifteen minutes before 12 o'clock, at which time the galleries were thrown open, and the rush for seats was so great that every one was quickly occupied.

At 12 o'clock precisely the meeting was called to order by Mr. W. B. LATHAM, of Illinois, and the Convention temporarily organized by calling Judge J. S. BRYCE, of Louisiana, to the Chair, and appointing Mr. SAMUEL TREAT, of Missouri, Secretary.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the honor conferred upon him, and then called upon the Rev. THEOPHILUS FISK to address the Throne of Grace before the Convention proceeded with any of its business. After the devotional exercises—

Mr. WHEELER, of North Carolina, submitted a resolution to the effect that a committee of one from each State be appointed by the delegates from the various States to report the number of delegates in attendance, and to examine the validity of credentials.

Mr. CONE, of Georgia, moved three resolutions as a substitute for the foregoing, in order, he said, to make the resolution conform to the action of the Convention of 1844. The substitute proposed the appointment of a committee to examine the credentials, and to report to the Convention the number of votes to which each State was entitled, as well as the number and names of the delegates who are entitled to seats in the Convention; also, that the committee consist of one member from each State, except the State of New York, and that two members should be appointed from that State—one by each set of delegates; and that the States be now called for the purpose of making such appointments.

These propositions gave rise to a long and exciting debate. Mr. CONE said there were two sets of delegates from New York, both of whom claim to be the representatives of the Democracy of that State, and therefore it became necessary, as in all deliberative bodies, that the Convention should know who of right ought to participate in its action before it proceeded to business. In answer to a question whether the committee should pass upon the New York case, he said he proposed that the committee should take such action as they thought proper; either that one set of delegates, or both, or neither, should have seats in the Convention, after having had all the evidence before them.

To this it was objected that such a course might prevent the organization of the Convention for several days, and it was suggested that a separate committee should consider that subject. In this suggestion Mr. CAMBRELENG, one of the Barnburners, concurred.

Mr. CONE said the New York case should be acted upon before the Convention could adopt rules. In 1844 one important rule was that which required a two-thirds vote for a nomination, and it was proper that New York should have a voice on that question, and therefore the difficulty in relation to New York should be first settled, that the voice of that State might be heard.

Mr. DICKINSON, from New York, did not anticipate great difficulty in this case. The committee proposed could report in part; they could report on all but the New York delegates, and continue the consideration of that case, which would give it the advantage of a special committee, which some gentlemen preferred. He assured the Convention that this course would be satisfactory to his friends, (the Hunkers,) and they would also concur in an agreement that both delegations from New York should refuse to act on that committee, and to appear before it in another character.

Mr. HANNEGAN, from Indiana, said he supposed they had all come together for consultation in a spirit that would lead to harmonious action, but they had started too fast. He believed they should first adopt rules for the government of the body, and for the purpose of moving a resolution to adopt the rules of the House of Representatives, he moved to lay the pending resolution on the table.

The CHAIRMAN put the question, and declared that the motion was rejected.

Mr. HANNEGAN said, as his resolution met with so much opposition, he would propose another preliminary question, viz. to ascertain how many would resist it, and for that purpose he would withdraw his motion to lay on the table.

To this there was a loudly expressed objection; and it was stated that the motion could not be withdrawn, inasmuch as the action of the meeting had taken it out of the power of the mover, and this view was sustained by the Chair.

Mr. HANNEGAN then proposed to offer another motion, to the effect that before proceeding to business every individual in the Convention should openly pledge himself to abide by its decision.

The CHAIRMAN. That is out of order pending this question.

Mr. HANNEGAN. I move to lay the resolution and the amendment on the table, that I may make such a motion.

The CHAIRMAN put the question, and declared it carried.

Mr. HANNEGAN then sent his resolution to the Chair, which proposed that every delegate present, and every person aiming to be a delegate, should pledge himself to support the principles of this Convention, and to use every honorable and just means to secure its election.

Mr. PRESTON KING (Barnburner) said they should first ascertain who were members. The seat which he claimed for was understood to be contested; and, therefore, he should obtain from voting until his right to it was decided.

Mr. CONE protested against the proceeding of the gentleman from Indiana, (Mr. HANNEGAN.) The Convention must determine who was competent to act. Before rules or pledges were voted upon, they must know who were authorized to represent the people in the Convention, and none other had a right to act. The adoption of rules was an important matter, for it might control the nomination, as it had done in some States. Were they, then, to allow any body of men to vote on the adoption of rules who might not be so entitled to act here at all? He thought they had got to get before the horse altogether. They were now but a meeting, and they did not know who was entitled to form the Convention; and how, then, could this meeting pledge itself to the gentleman from Indiana proposed?

Mr. YANCEY, of Alabama, moved to lay the motion of the gentleman from Indiana on the table, which was agreed to. Mr. CONE's resolution was then taken from the table, and upon it the question again recurred.

Mr. DRAKE, of Ohio, objected to giving New York two delegates on the committee. He considered this a question affecting every State in the Union; for, though in their own way they might neutralize each other, in another case they might combine and do that which would be unjust to another State. He thought the contesting parties should appear before the committee to advocate their claim, but not be members of the Convention to decide who were entitled to seats.

Some discussion arose, in which Messrs. CAMBRELENG, PRESTON KING, YANCEY, TOUCHEY, and ARTOUL took part, in the course of which they complained of the action of the Chair in declaring Mr. CONE's resolution adopted; and the result was that it was reconsidered and again brought before the meeting.

Mr. YANCEY was opposed to the amendment of the gentleman from Georgia, for it recognized two sets of delegates from New York as having seats here and on the committee, thereby making them judges in their own case.

Mr. HANNEGAN suggested that neither set of delegates would agree to serve on the committee.

The debate was further continued by Mr. CONE, Mr. YANCEY, Mr. TOUCHEY, Mr. WHEELER, Mr. BAYLY, of Virginia, and various suggestions were made to except the New York delegates from the committee.

Mr. TILDEN, of New York, (Barnburner,) on behalf of the delegates sent here by the Union Convention, said they should desire to be heard on the main question before the whole body of delegates, in relation to the merits of the controversy existing in the State of New York. They desired, therefore, that the resolutions should be so modified as to afford that opportunity, and to confine the investigation of the committee to the facts of the case. The decision to be pronounced on this case was deeply interesting to the State of New York, and to the Democracy of all parts of the Union, and therefore they should object to the decision of the case by a committee.

(Great impatience was manifested, and one gentleman moved the previous question, but as Mr. T. had the floor it was ruled out of order.) He could not consent to have so important a question decided by technical artifice or cause prejudice.

He expressed his regret that the Convention should not have gladly listened to him in so weighty a matter. He hoped there was no intention to drive the great State of New York out of the Convention. He then repeated that they (the Barnburners) desired to be heard on the main question before the Convention, and were willing that the committee should investigate and report upon the facts.

Mr. DICKINSON, of New York, (Old Hunker,) said he hoped the gentleman from New York would so modify his suggestion as that his (Mr. D.'s) friends should have other counsel at the bar of the Convention than the gentleman (Mr. TILDEN) for his friends. [Laughter.]

Mr. CONE accepted a suggestion made by Mr. YANCEY to except the New York delegates from the committee.

Mr. PRESTON KING (Barnburner) also proclaimed that he was unwilling that the committee should decide the contest between the two sets of delegates from New York, but they would submit it to the Convention.

Mr. BRIGHT, of Indiana, thought the question could be settled by the adoption of the amendment of the gentleman from Georgia; but if this Convention was to take all the conflicting facts and act upon them, they should sit here ten days without an organization. The question was, which set of delegates should represent the Democracy of New York? Let the committee consider the question; then let the delegates be heard at the bar of the Convention for a reasonable length of time, and the Convention could then decide. Believing that the amendment of the gentleman from Georgia would answer every purpose, he moved to lay the motion of Mr. TILDEN on the table; which was agreed to, (though, in fact, the motion had not been formally presented.)

Mr. PRESTON KING rose to speak, but he was called to order by

Mr. BRIGHT, who insisted that he had not only moved to lay on the table, but for the previous question.

The CHAIRMAN so decided.

Mr. PRESTON KING contended that the Chair had given him the floor, and he had proceeded to make some remarks.

After some discussion the point was yielded, and Mr. P. KING was allowed to proceed. He said the question was in a nutshell, and the case, in his judgment, would not take one hour in its decision, when the facts were known; but it was a monstrous proposition that this great question should be referred to a committee. He asked if this Convention intended to dispose of this question by caucus consultation elsewhere? He could tell gentlemen that there had been apprehensions in New York that such would be the result, though he should not arrive at such a conclusion until he saw some reason to do so. (Mr. K., in the course of these remarks, was assailed by loud cries of "Order!") He said that he and his friends claimed to be the rightful delegates from New York to represent the Democracy of that State in this Convention. They had been chosen, as he thought he could show in the ordinary and regular manner, and they asked the Convention to decide the case on the facts, which he asked that the committee might report to the Convention. The pending resolution simply required the committee to examine the credentials and report the names of the delegates; but should they, as the regular and rightful delegates from New York, come here and permit any body to take their place, go away, then come back, and neglect to ascertain their rights? They should not do so. They desired to be heard on the facts in the case.

Mr. DICKINSON, of New York, said the very atmosphere about them, political and otherwise, admonished them to keep cool. [Laughter.] He and his friends were willing to abide by the decision of a committee of the Convention. They were not afraid of any trifling matter, and they did not ask the Convention to decide the case on the facts, which he asked that the committee might report to the Convention. The pending resolution simply required the committee to examine the credentials and report the names of the delegates; but should they, as the regular and rightful delegates from New York, come here and permit any body to take their place, go away, then come back, and neglect to ascertain their rights? They should not do so. They desired to be heard on the facts in the case.

Mr. BRIGHT then moved the previous question; and, under its operation, the resolution of Mr. CONE was adopted, and the following committee was appointed by the State delegates—neither delegation from New York being represented on the committee:

Maine—Charles Andrews.
New Hampshire—Richard Jenness.
Massachusetts—Robert Rantoul, Jr.
Connecticut—John W. Foster.
Rhode Island—John T. Paine.
New Jersey—Garret D. Wall.
Pennsylvania—W. T. Rogers.
Delaware—William H. Rose.
Maryland—Thomas H. Howard.
Virginia—John H. Davis.
North Carolina—Robert S. Sanders.
South Carolina—J. M. Commager.
Georgia—W. H. McAllister.
Alabama—William Acklin.
Florida—R. J. Moses.
Mississippi—A. G. McNutt.
Louisiana—W. G. Kendall.
Arkansas—Solon Bland.
Missouri—James M. Hughes.
Tennessee—Hopkins L. Turney.
Kentucky—John W. Stevenson.
Iowa—James Clarke.
Wisconsin—J. Brown.
Illinois—McConnell.
Ohio—A. G. Evans.
Indiana—William P. Bryant.
Texas—L. V. Evans.
Michigan—Alexander H. Redfield.

Mr. MOSES, from Florida, begged permission to state that, having expressed an opinion in the New York case, he desired to make it known, so that objection might be made to his serving on the committee, if any gentleman thought proper to object. He said he had expressed the opinion out of doors, (as we understand,) and the Barnburners had thrown a firebrand into his party. (He was loudly called to order, and directed to take his seat, but he afterwards proceeded in an impassioned manner to explain.)

Some conversation ensued, which resulted in his asking to be excused from serving on the committee, which the Convention refused; but he stated that neither he nor his colleagues would serve on the committee, though they would act actively with the Convention.

A communication from the Jackson Democratic Association of Washington (D. C.) was laid before the Convention, containing resolutions of that body appointing five Delegates to the Convention, and asking, as an act of courtesy, that they be admitted.

There were loud cries of "No," "No," and a motion to lay it on the table, but ultimately the communication was referred to the Committee on Credentials, with instructions to award the delegates from the District of Columbia seats as honorary members.

The Convention then adjourned to 5 o'clock.

SESSION OF MONDAY EVENING.

The Convention re-assembled at 5 o'clock, on Monday evening, and adopted a resolution to proceed to its permanent organization by the appointment of a Committee of one Delegate from each State to nominate its officers.

Mr. BOYD announced that the Committee on Credentials, &c., appointed at the morning session, would soon be ready to report in part.

While the Convention was waiting for this report—

Mr. Senator HANNEGAN was called upon to address the Convention. He took the stand in obedience to the call, and addressed the Convention at some length. He spoke of his determination to remain the nominee of the Convention, and then of the general principles of the party. He also alluded to the progress of Republicanism in Europe in imitation of the Republic of Thirty States, soon to be enlarged by New

Mexico, Oregon, California, and some others. [A voice in the crowd inquired if they might not expect Yucatan too.] To which Mr. H. replied, "No; but perhaps a far richer, Cuba; and, he begged permission to add, Jamaica, too!" [Great applause.] Mr. H. concluded with much advice to the two contending delegations from New York to adhere to the principles of the party.

Mr. YANCEY, of Alabama, Mr. Senator HOUSTON, and Judge BRYCE, the President *pro tem.*, also addressed the meeting.

The Committee on Credentials having returned in part. The report, he said, contained the names of all the delegates to the Convention who are entitled to seats, except the State of New York; and he said he was instructed by the committee to ask leave, for the further investigation of that matter, to continue to sit during the sitting of the Convention.

The report was read, and several delegates called for the question on its adoption.

Mr. HOWARD said the report stated two things in obedience to the instructions given to the committee. First, the number of votes to which each State was entitled; and, secondly, who were the members of this Convention. In relation to the first point, the committee had reported that South Carolina was entitled to nine votes; and, in relation to the second, that Mr. CONNOR was entitled to his seat. The credentials of that gentleman came from the people and were as undoubted as those of any gentleman present. How many votes that gentleman should give was not now the question before the Convention. The question was as to the adoption of the report, which said that the gentleman from South Carolina was entitled to his seat; and could any gentleman doubt that? Could it be doubted? The question as to the number of votes which the gentleman should give did not now arise. It must be decided when it should come up and not now. When they should have adopted that report they would only say that Mr. CONNOR was entitled to a seat in this body; they would say nothing more.

Mr. BRIGHT, of Indiana, wished to ask the delegate from South Carolina what he understood his rights to be, and whether he expected to give nine votes or only one vote.

Mr. CONNOR, in answer to that question, it might be necessary to enter upon a statement of the circumstances under which he came to this Convention. A portion of the Democracy of South Carolina was of the opinion that they had been wrong all along in the question—believing that they had been too long asleep—aroused themselves from their slumbers and determined to hold a meeting at large, and consequently a publication was made calling upon the 4th Congressional district, and inviting the whole State to meet with them and join in their action on the subject.

That was all he asked; and he would want the Democratic party to be careful how they acted on this case. The State of South Carolina has been somewhat astray, and the action of this Convention on this subject was of much importance in relation to her future position. He knew the sentiment of the people of South Carolina. He was a man of the people. The people sent him here. He was the representative of the people, and he knew of no other power but the people to entrust them to him. He was perfectly willing to submit to the Convention the number of votes he should give. He claimed one. It was his right; and he believed, according to former precedents, he was entitled to the whole. There were several cases in this Convention in which States were only represented in part. There were two or three districts in North Carolina, but he knew of no other power but the people to entrust them to him. He was perfectly willing to submit to the Convention the number of votes he should give. 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